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DISCOVERY OF LARGE AUSTRIAN IRON-ORE DEPOSIT

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A large iron-ore deposit has been discovered near Plankogel. The size of this deposit is barely exceeded by the Styrian Erzberg (Ore Mountain). (1)

Workers at Plankogel near Gaasen in the Weiz district found the ore deposit while erecting poles for electric power lines. According to an expert at the Mining Office, the Plankogel ore region was mined very successfully during the last century; 1812 and 1858 were especially productive years. (2)

The Vereinigte Oesterreichische Eisen- und Stahlwerke (United Austrian Iron and Steel Works) in Linz reports that it is planning to open up the Plankogel ore deposit located in East Styria west of Birkfeld. The ore will be open-pit mined, as at the Erzberg. This deposit may greatly reduce the company's dependability on foreign ores. (3)

The former Reich Office for Geological Research has established that the Plankogel ores have an extraordinarily high iron content: from 60 to 74.2 percent and sometimes even 86.9 percent. In addition, the ore is magnetite, the magnetic iron-ore content of which even surpasses that of the famous Swedish ores. The Plankogel ore reserves are estimated at 100 million tons; the deposits thus far discovered are 9,000 meters in length and at least 10 meters thick. Besides having a high magnetic iron content, the ores also contain large quantities of manganese and small quantities of sulfur, in addition to some titanite. Previous surveys have established that the Plankogel ore deposits are among the largest and most valuable iron deposits in Central Europe. By comparison, the famous Styrian Erzberg also has reserves estimated at 100 million tons, but the ore is spathic iron ore (siderite) with an iron content of only 48 percent. (4)

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1. Berlin, Aussenhandels Nachrichten, 13 Feb 52
2. Salzburg, Salzburger Nachrichten, 6 Aug 52
3. Ibid., 12 Dec 52
4. Duesseldorf, Schlaegel und Eisen, No 1, Jan 53

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